



Lanes
FARM VETS

Newsletter

February 2021

Computer issues and invoices

As you are all aware, we have had a new practice management system (Provet) put in place. The transfer has not gone as smoothly as we had hoped, and we are very aware of the issues it has caused some of you and first off we would like to apologise for those issues caused – they definitely haven't gone unnoticed and the comments have been forwarded to the Provet Team to help us to resolve them and develop the system to what we require it to do.

For the past few months your end of month invoices have been separated and very hard to follow with everything being on an individual invoice. Fortunately we are confident we have overcome this issue and have worked with the development team within Provet to create a consolidated invoice which is (all being well) going to be live for next month's invoice run. This will (hopefully!) be the last time you will receive your invoices separately and next month it should be a lot easier!

Saturday opening hours

We are continuing to be open on a Saturday morning 8.30-12 noon for drug orders, however we are having to staff the surgery on slightly reduced numbers, to reduce mixing of staff bubbles, so we ask that you phone first for medicines orders and (unless urgent) they will be ready for 12 noon. Thank you for your cooperation.

*'A local independent practice committed to
delivering outstanding service'*



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Bovela® and Advance study from Boehringer (Bovela manufacturers)

The various BVD eradication programmes are making good progress across the UK, and the National BVD Survey this year found that the majority of those farmers signing up to the voluntary programmes are encouraged to join due to increases in herd performance or recognition for taking care of their herd¹.

This is further supported by a recent study showing that cows not protected against BVD in endemically infected herds lost up to 1.8 litres of milk a day, even without any signs of the disease in the herds². The aim of the study was to quantify the loss of productivity in dairy cows because of BVD infection.

The ADVANCE study, the largest peer-reviewed BVD trial undertaken in Europe, analysed data from 1,463 animals representing 1,559 lactations from four dairy farms in the UK, France and Italy. Half the cows in each herd were protected by Bovela®, with the other half unvaccinated. The resulting economic benefit for a farmer of vaccinating their dairy herd with Bovela®, on milk production alone, is up to £56 per cow per lactation. For more information and to calculate the financial benefits on your farm, go to www.makebvhistory.co.uk/milk-production.

Even when farmers are vaccinating it is important that vaccination is given as per the data sheet to achieve the high level of immunity needed. Further information from the National BVD Survey 2020 highlighted that 22% of producers in England restarted a vaccination course because they had missed the 6 month booster, incorrectly timed the 2 shot primary course or gone beyond the 12 month window of their vaccine, up from 16% in 2019. Of particular note was the leap from 7% to 11% for those farmers restarting vaccination courses because they had missed their 12 month window¹.

If you have concerns about BVD in your herd, whether you vaccinate or not we are happy to discuss how to check if the virus is under control. Ask your vet or contact the office.

References:

1. BIAH (2020) National BVD Survey, January 2020.
2. Schmitt *et al.* (2020). Comparison of milk production of dairy cows vaccinated with a live double deleted BVDV vaccine and non - vaccinated dairy cows cohabitating in commercial herds endemically infected with BVD virus. *PLoS ONE* 15(10): e0240113

Drunken lamb syndrome and treatment

Drunken lamb syndrome is the term given to lambs usually around a week old which stop drinking milk, become lethargic and go ataxic (wobbly or drunken) with no obvious cause eg no naval ill, scour, hypothermia etc. It is a condition resulting from the build of lactic acid in the tissues and damage to kidneys (nephrosis) with the ensuing acidosis.

If all other causes of 'off colour lambs' are eliminated then a simple trick that can revive these lambs is to give them just under a level teaspoon (4g to be precise) of sodium bicarbonate (ordinary baking powder is fine) mixed with 50ml of warm water orally. A 50ml syringe is perfect for dosing (we can supply if you need one).

Recovery is usually fairly rapid if your diagnosis is correct—don't keep giving it as it could result in alkalosis which can be fatal. Give a long acting penicillin at the time of treatment to protect against bacteria from the gut entering the blood stream (eg Bimoxyl LA).

Lambing

Lambing is well under way in lowland flocks. So far most seem to be going OK. Ewes are fit and large singles has been our biggest problem so far with the Suffolks and Texels.

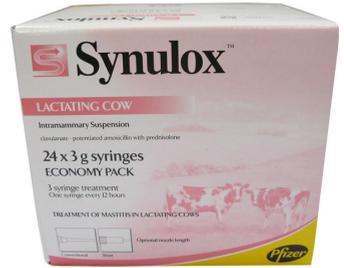
Fluke may be a problem in thinner ewes, even if they were dosed in autumn. The fluke season was late this year and was extended due to the mild & wet weather later in the season. A product active against adults should now be effective.

We are well stocked with lambing products if you need to get your kit in order. Likewise if you have any queries please don't hesitate to ask, our vets are usually available over the phone.

Problems with lambing can be seen either on farm or in a trailer (if you have one big enough) at the practice. We are trying to keep out of the building as much as possible to protect the staff and prevent any potential Covid spread. Lambing prices remain viably low: visit fee plus lambing fee (£40-50 depending on difficulty) and any drugs we may use or bring your own. Caesareans are £87 plus visit & drugs.

Synulox LC tubes are on their way!

We have been told they should arrive by the end of this week. We hope this news isn't premature but it is always nice to share a bit of good news. We have pre-ordered a large supply so we should have plenty for everyone who has been waiting.



Drug news

Fortunately, we are on a good run of supply with a lot of our usual culprits for being out of stock. We have good supply of all vaccines from our new supplier and are receiving deliveries daily from them, although they don't come at a specific time in the day—we will call you if you have an order waiting to arrive to let you know it is here ready for you.

Calciject 20cm (blue) is no longer available and has been discontinued. We have good supply of Calciject 40cm (red) if you need any for lambing time.

Tesco contract dairy farmers—note change to Johnes policy

Tesco have tightened their Johnes policy and require less than 2% of the milking herd scoring as a red by the end of July. Their definition of a red cow is slightly different to herdwise: a cow scoring 2 or more consecutive highs. Now is the time to start planning—please ask if unsure.

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